

## REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed June 5, 2003, claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hara (U.S. Patent No. 5,938,725) in view of Birrell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,189,026). The foregoing rejections are respectfully traversed.

On the Office Action Summary page of the June 5 Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the certified copy of the priority document was received in the National Stage Application from the International Bureau. It is respectfully submitted that the subject application was filed under 35 U.S.C. 1.53(b) and that a certified copy of the priority document was submitted to the USPTO in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.55 concurrently with the filing of the subject application.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to prepare and forward to the undersigned a Communication from the Examiner indicating same.

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, and 18 have been amended. Claims 3, 9, and 15 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-14, 16, 17, and 18 are pending and under consideration.

Claims 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, and 18 are amended for clarification for reasons unrelated to patentability.

Hara discusses a method and apparatus for determining a destination address of an electronic mail message from stored electronic mail messages. In the Hara apparatus, electronic mail (or e-mail) is stored and when a keyword is input, an e-mail including this keyword is retrieved from storage. An e-mail address included in the retrieved e-mail is extracted as an e-mail address of a transmission destination candidate, allowing the user to select the destination e-mail address from a list of candidate destination e-mail addresses.

Birrell discusses dynamically generating an address book in a distributed electronic mail (or e-mail) system. In the Birrell apparatus, an address book is dynamically generated in a distributed mail service system, and mail messages are parsed and indexed to generate a full-text index.

The combination of Hara and Birrell is an apparatus for determining a destination address of an electronic mail message from stored electronic mail messages, and arranging same in an address book.

In contrast to the foregoing references relied upon, either alone or in combination, the present invention includes (as recited in each of independent claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13, and 14 of the present application, using the recitation of claim 1 as an example) a judging unit which "judges whether or not a reply destination mail address extracted from an E-mail received is an address of a mailing list capable of broadcasting the same E-mail to a plurality of destinations at one time".

In the present invention, in contrast to the foregoing references relied upon, a judging unit (as recited in claim 1) judges whether or not a reply destination mail address extracted from a received e-mail is an address of a mailing list. That is, the present invention (as recited in the foregoing claims) judges an extracted address by the mailing address.

Neither of the foregoing references relied upon, either alone or in combination, discusses or suggests same.

Moreover, dependent claims 4-6, 10-12, and 16-18 recite patentably distinguishing features of their own. For example, claim 4/2 recites "a mail address book by which whether or not the reply destination mail address extracted from the mail header of the E-mail received is the address of the mailing list, can be judged".

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.


Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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